§551.203

whole clearly meets the other exemption criteria.

(i) The designation of an employee as FLSA exempt or nonexempt ultimately rests on the duties actually performed by the employee.

§ 551.203 Exemption of General Schedule employees.

- (a) GS-4 or below. Any employee in a position properly classified at GS-4 or below (or the equivalent level in other comparable white-collar pay systems) is nonexempt, unless the employee is subject to the foreign exemption in §551.209.
- (b) *GS-5* or above. Any employee in a position properly classified at GS-5 or above (or the equivalent level in other comparable white-collar pay systems) is exempt only if the employee is an executive, administrative, or professional employee as defined in this subpart, unless the employee is subject to §551.208 (the effect of performing temporary work or duties on FLSA exemption status) or §551.209 (the foreign exemption).

§ 551.204 Exemption of Federal Wage System employees.

- (a) Nonsupervisory. A nonsupervisory employee in the Federal Wage System or in other comparable wage systems is nonexempt, unless the employee is subject to \$551.208 (the effect of performing temporary work or duties on FLSA exemption status) or \$551.209 (the foreign exemption).
- (b) Supervisory. A supervisory employee in the Federal Wage System or in other comparable wage systems is exempt only if the employee is an executive employee as defined in §551.205, unless the employee is subject to §551.208 (the effect of performing temporary work or duties on FLSA exemption status) or §551.209 (the foreign exemption).

§551.205 Executive exemption criteria.

An executive employee is a supervisor or manager who manages a Federal agency or any subdivision thereof (including the lowest recognized organizational unit with a continuing function) and customarily and regularly directs the work of subordinate employees and meets both of the following criteria:

- (a) *Primary duty test.* The primary duty test is met if the employee—
- (1) Has authority to make personnel changes that include, but are not limited to, selecting, removing, advancing in pay, or promoting subordinate employees, or has authority to suggest or recommend such actions with particular consideration given to these suggestions and recommendations; and
- (2) Customarily and regularly exercises discretion and independent judgment in such activities as work planning and organization; work assignment, direction, review, and evaluation; and other aspects of management of subordinates, including personnel administration.
- (b) 80-percent test. In addition to the primary duty test that applies to all employees, the following employees must spend 80 percent or more of the worktime in a representative workweek on supervisory and closely related work to meet the 80-percent test:
- (1) Employees in positions properly classified in the General Schedule at GS-5 or GS-6 (or the equivalent level in other comparable white-collar pay systems):
- (2) Firefighting or law enforcement employees in positions properly classified in the General Schedule at GS-7, GS-8, or GS-9 who are subject to section 207(k) of title 29, United States Code; and
- (3) Supervisors in positions properly classified in the Federal Wage System below situation 3 of Factor I of the Federal Wage System Job Grading Standard for Supervisors (or the equivalent level in other comparable wage systems).

§ 551.206 Administrative exemption criteria.

An administrative employee is an advisor or assistant to management, a representative of management, or a specialist in a management or general business function or supporting service and meets all four of the following criteria:

- (a) Primary duty test. The primary duty test is met if the employee's work—
- (1) Significantly affects the formulation or execution of management programs or policies; or